

PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

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TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Jody K. Prince

Group IV, Claims 16-17, drawn to a process for the fermentation of a microorganism to form shikimic acid which is further processed to form high purity crystals of shikimic acid.

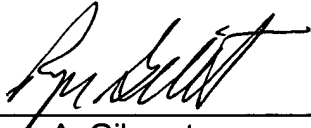
Applicants, with traverse, hereby provisionally elect Group I, claims 1-11, for examination.

Applicants' election is made without prejudice. Applicants will be entitled to consideration of claims to an additional three species in addition to the elected species, provided that all claims to each additional species are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 C.F.R. 1.141.

An action on the merits of claims 1-11, and a Notice of Allowance thereof are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 28, 2003

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